(b) Punjab National Bank has reported that its Naraina branch has sanctioned 18 cases with limits upto Rs. 25,000 to SSI Units aggregating to Rs 1 10 lakhs during the last 2 years and no collateral security/ margin was taken in these accounts

(c) Question does not arise.

National Equity Fund for small industrial sector

3345 SHRI M A BABY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether National Equity Fund administered by IDBI for small industrial sector has been formed and started functioning and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the norms laid down for grant of equity fund and what is the maximum financial limit for small sector unit, and

(c) what are the details of the offices/branches which have started functioning at different places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) National Equity Fund (NEF) has been set up in the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in August 1987 for providing assistance in the form of soft loans towards equity to eligible entrepreneurs for setting up new projects and also for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units in the tiny and small scale sectors. The assistance under the Scheme would be channelised through nationalised banks Under National Equity Fund Scheme, assistance upto a maximum of Rs 75,000 per project at a service charge of 1 per cent per annum would be available to tiny and small-scale industrial units located/coming up in a village/town having population not exceeding 5 lacs and with project cost not exceeding Rs 5 lacs. The soft loan for equity will be repayable over a maximum period of 7 years including an initial moratorium upto 3 years Minimum promoters' contribution is 10 per cent of the project cost.

Seed capital assistance by 'Risk Capital Foundation' sponsored by IFCI

3346. SHRI M. A BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of the parties which have been granted seed capital assistance, with amount, by 'Risk Capital Foundation' sponsored by IFCI since it was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the amount sanctioned, partywise;

(b) what are the adminisrative and technical difficulties the Foundation is having for not extending such facilities to small scale sector; and

(c) what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that specific seed capital schemes are implemented by financial institutions to meet the needs of small-scale and medium scale sectors. Under the 'Seed Capital Scheme' and the 'National Equity Fund Scheme, operated by Industrial Development Bank of India seed capital assistance is available, inter-alia, to small-scale units. The Risk Capital Foundation (RCF) provides interest-free loans to entrepreneurs possessing technical or professional qualifications and/or having reasonable/relative experience in industry or business for meeting a part of the promoters' contribution to the equity of medium scale projects generally with cost between Rs 2 crores and Rs 15 crores. RCF has sanctioned assistance of Rs 1469 78 lakhs to 218 promoters of 130 projects upto the end of Nov. 1987. A statement showing the names of the assisted promoters, their projects together with location and the amount

sanctioned since inception of RCF upto the 30th November, 1987 is enclosed [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 140.]

Corruption charges against the staff of Punjab National Bank, Dehradun

3347. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry against the staff of Dehradun branch of the Punjab National Bank is being conducted for their involvement in graft and corruption during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Punjab National Bank has reported that no departmental enquiry is pending at present against any of the staff of its Dehradun Branch. The Bank has, however, reporeted that the CBI have registered a case against the then Manager of its Patel Nagar (Dehradun) Branch. The Investigation Report of the CBI in this case has not so far been received by the Bank. The Bank has further reported that in an other case against an officer of its Tilak Road (Dehradun) Branch, a charge sheet was served on him and minor penalty of recovery of pecuniary loss plus interest was imposed on him The Bank has also reported that it proposes to serve charge sheet on this officer in another case.

Exemption to GSI from provident fund contribution

3348. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India was exempted from provident fund contribution under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, in so far as casual and contingent workers are concerned;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of non-existence of any provident fund scheme for casual and contingent workers of GSI;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for which Government allowed Geological Survey of India to refrain from contributing to provident fund under the above Act; and

(d) whether Government will ensure payment of provident fund to the GSI contingent workers where no provident fund scheme is at present operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha.

Separate machinery for recovery of Provident Fund dues

3349. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a separate machinery for the recovery of provident fund dues from the employers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to make a suitable provision in the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for setting up a separate machinery for recovery of P. F dues. For this purpose, a suitable amending Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament soon.